

ER 68-334a

Will not be sent

The Honorable Dante B. Fascell, Chairman
Legal and Monetary Affairs Subcommittee
Committee on Government Operations
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your letter dated 19 January requesting information on the role of the Central Intelligence Agency in the effort against organized crime.

The National Security Act of 1947, as amended (50 U. S. C. 401), charges the Agency with the duty of correlation, evaluation, and dissemination of intelligence within the Government relating to the national security. It should be noted that the Act specifically provides "... That the Agency shall have no police, subpoena, law-enforcement powers, or internal-security functions...." Collection of information relating to organized crime is thus not within the jurisdiction of CIA.

The Agency does occasionally receive information relating to criminal activities as a by-product of certain overseas intelligence operations. Generally, this information pertains to narcotics, counterfeiting, and smuggling and is made available to the appropriate elements of the Treasury Department. Information of interest to the FBI is forwarded to the Bureau upon receipt. In addition, the indices of CIA are available to appropriate law enforcement agencies on request.

CIA has long been interested in electronic information storage and retrieval and has had several specialized systems in operation for some years. Agency officials in November 1967 briefed Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr., Assistant Attorney General, and six officers

CRC, 8/26/2003

of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice, on machine records. Emphasis was on the possible adaptation of the CIA system as a means of storing, collating, and retrieving information on organized crime. Mr. Vinson expressed appreciation for the "detailed and clear analysis and advice" which "helped us a good deal along the way to solving some of our most acute information needs." We have also consulted with law enforcement agencies at the local level and furnished advice on the use of machine records.

CIA conducts a program of research and development of new technical means for furthering its mission. Through periodic meetings of representatives of interested agencies, the results of these efforts are made available to appropriate Federal law enforcement agencies for their possible adaptation.

Although the CIA role is necessarily limited, we shall continue to assist in this effort to the fullest extent permitted by law.

Sincerely,

STATINTL

Richard Helms
Director

OLC/CEA:rw (13 Feb 68)

Rewritten: O/ExDir [] (26 Feb 68)

(Letter as originally prepared concurred in by the DD/P on 14 Feb, John W. Coffey for DD/S on 15 Feb, and [] for DD/S&T on 19 Feb)

STATINTL

Distribution:

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Remarks:					
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TRANSMITTAL SLIP		DATE <i>5 Mar 68</i>
TO:		
ROOM NO.		
REMARKS: <i>John: The Director is pleased that this account has been settled without a written reply.</i>		
<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <i>to CEA. [Signature]</i> </div>		
FROM: <i>[Signature]</i>		
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REPLACES FORM 36-8
WHICH MAY BE USED.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP			
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS
1	The Director		
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Remarks:			
<p>We have been in touch with the staff man concerned indicating that it will take us a few days to pull together the information to respond. They are in no hurry. It is of interest that they had not originally sent the attached form letter to the Agency but when Justice responded that CIA had been of assistance to them in this matter, the Committee sent us the attached letter. We have queries out for information and hope to have a draft for your approval next week.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(5) John S. Warner</p>			
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OLC 7 D 01 Hqs			25 Jan 68
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TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS		
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2	The Director				
3	Legislative Counsel for hand carry				
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<p>Remarks: Attached is a proposed response to Fascell's letter of 19 January 1968 requesting information on CIA's participation in the organized crime effort. We discussed the timing of the response with the staff and they were in no particular hurry. The Committee specifically asked for an unclassified letter. It is still possible that we could brief the staff rather than a letter if you would prefer this course. The letter has been concurred in by the DDP, John W. Coffey for DDS, and [redacted] for DDS&T.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[redacted] John S. Warner</p>					
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FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.				DATE	
Legislative Counsel - 7 D 01 Hqs [redacted]				20 Feb 68	
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